

Mayor and Council Regular Meeting – March 25, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. The meeting began at 7:35pm via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Alessi called the meeting to order announcing that notice was provided in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975. He provided a statement regarding the conduct of the teleconference which would allow members of the public to participate and be heard during public comment.

Roll Call indicated the following:

Present: Mayor Alessi, Council President Santomauro, Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Astorino, Councilman Kessler, Councilman Rees and Councilman Tilton.

Also present were: Mr. David M. Paris, Esq., Acting Borough Attorney; Kevin O'Sullivan, Borough Administrator; Mark Deuer, Police Chief; Paul Ferriero, Borough Engineer; and Tami Michelotti, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi asked Council President Santomauro to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Alessi provided an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the Borough, described the status on the Borough's continuity of services and encouraged compliance with Governor Murphy's "stay at home" directive. He stated that the 2020 Annual Budget introduction would be postponed in accordance with the Governor's permission.

Citizens to be Heard

Mayor Alessi announced that public comment regarding Ordinance O-3-2020 would be addressed later in the meeting.

Paul Scagnelli – 7 Stony Brook Drive

Mr. Scagnelli asked for an update on the Borough's agreement with Pulte Homes regarding their extension request. Mr. O'Sullivan noted that there had been no changes since the last meeting and that action was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Scagnelli asked for a copy of the agreement. Mr. Paris stated that the agreement had not yet been finalized which prevents disclosure to the public.

Jeremy Glaser – 10A Highfield Terrace

Mr. Glaser asked about plans regarding additional access roads at the potential Green Brook Country Club development. Mr. Ferriero stated that the proposed ordinance regarding the Green Brook Zoning Overlay was not included on the meeting agenda.

Alex Opper – 8 Brentwood Drive

Mr. Opper asked when the Green Brook Overlay Ordinance would be addressed. Mr. O'Sullivan stated that the public hearing was adjourned due to the new teleconferencing format of meetings due to COVID-19. He added that the business scheduled for that evening were time-sensitive in nature.

Ms. Michelotti read into record the adjournment of Ordinances O-2-2020, O-4-2020, O-5-2020, and O-6-2020 to a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Conference Meeting and Executive Session held on February 11, 2020, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was passed unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Council President Santomauro moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on February 25, 2020, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Councilman Astorino abstained. Said motion was passed with five affirmative votes and one abstention.

Committee Reports

Legal and Ordinance

Ordinance O-3-2020

Council President Santomauro stated that the proposed ordinance would repeal Chapter 107, Section 30A in its entirety. She asked that Paul Ferriero, Municipal Engineer, provide a background. Mr. Ferriero stated that FEMA remapped certain flood plain areas which the Borough needs to adopt and

consider as part of the Borough ordinance. He added that some minor administrative changes are included based on NJDEP guidance so that residents can apply for flood damage insurance.

Council President Santomauro moved to open the public hearing for Ordinance O-3-2020 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 107, Section 30.A Regarding Flood Damage Prevention, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

The teleconference was opened to the public. Hearing no comment from the public, Council President opened the hearing for comment from the Governing Body.

Council President Santomauro moved to close the public hearing for Ordinance O-3-2020 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 107, Section 30.A Regarding Flood Damage Prevention, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Council President Santomauro moved to adopt Ordinance O-3-2020 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 107, Section 30.A Regarding Flood Damage Prevention, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six affirmative votes.

Personnel and Administration

Councilman Tilton thanked the Borough employees for providing consistency of Borough services through the pandemic.

Resolution R-53-2020 A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Professional Services Contract for 2020 Municipal Engineering Services was read. Motion was made by Councilman Tilton, seconded by Councilman Kessler. Councilman Chiaia stated that Mr. Ferriero's services have been invaluable. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Finance

Resolution R-54-2020 A Resolution Approving the Payment of Bills was read. Motion was made by Councilman Astorino, seconded by Councilman Chiaia. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

Public Safety

Councilman Chiaia expressed appreciation to the staff for executing the Borough's first virtual meeting. He stated that he had been in contact with John D'Ascensio, OEM Coordinator, and Fire Chief Tim Peterson regarding the Borough's preparedness during the pandemic. He added that the Police Department is fielding more calls and could explore hiring Class II officers if needed. Chief Deuer stated that changes were made to staffing levels to ensure safety and to minimize exposure for the department. He added that officers would attempt to keep social distance by not entering residents' homes unless required.

Public Works

Resolution R-55-2020 A Resolution Fixing Water Rates was read. Motion was made by Councilman Rees, seconded by Council President Santomauro. Said motion was carried unanimously with six votes.

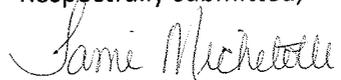
Recreation

Councilman Kessler stated that recreation activities were suspended until further notice due to the pandemic and that registration fees collected to date would be re-evaluated in the coming weeks.

Council President Santomauro stated that she and Councilman Chiaia, in consultation with Mayor Alessi, were working to coordinate volunteers and citizens in need. Mayor Alessi added that representatives from Congregation Agudath and Notre Dame Church were consulted to identify volunteers and neighbors in need.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by the Council, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:29pm. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Michelotti
Borough Clerk